

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5239)
Minnesota Circle at Montana Drive
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DG

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE, (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5239)

HAER No. NY-326-DG

Location: Minnesota Circle at Montana Drive

UTM: 18.622720.4947900
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT. 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1959

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: There are six fourplex homes identical to Building No. 5239: Buildings No. 5308, 5309, 6018, 6220, 6269, and 6272. Each provided 4,496-square-feet of Lower and Upper Grade NCO, and Company Grade Officer housing.

Project Information: Building No. 5239 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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Summary Description of Capehart Four-Family Home (Building No. 5239)

Layout

Building No. 5032 is a 4,496 square-foot, two-story, wood-frame, fourplex building with a low-pitched gable roof. It is rectangular in plan, with the ground floor level clad in brick veneer while the upper story is clad in vinyl siding. On the rear ground level, the brick façade is interrupted with a strong entrance/fenestration sequence: set within a painted wood panel inset is an entry door, next to which occurs a Chicago-style window unit (double hung windows flanking a central fixed light picture window). Above this, at the second floor level, the windows reverse the Chicago theme, with narrow fixed glass panels flanking a central double hung window. At the front of the building, roughly two-thirds of the ground level brick façade is again interrupted, this time by 1'-0" x 0'-3" indentation. The recessed area is clad in scored, vertical wood siding, with the front entrance door and a double-hung kitchen window being located in the recession. At the upper level, the vinyl clad façade continues uninterrupted, creating a shallow overhang. A single horizontal sliding bathroom window and one of the "reverse" Chicago windows occur at this level. At each gabled-end, the façade is punctured by a single, narrow, double hung window centered on the second floor level.

Within the overall structure, four identical apartments are lined up. An entrance hall leads from the front door directly into a living/dining area, oriented toward the rear of the unit. Opening off the entrance hall is a kitchen, a utility room, and a staircase leading to the second level, where the bedrooms are located.

Each individual unit in the fourplex is essentially a mirror image of the unit(s) flanking it, and the entire structure is built atop a concrete block, chain-wall foundation. At the front of the fourplex, occur two fully detached garages, equally spaced along the façade. Each garage has two stalls and contains 515 square feet of space. These garages are one-story, wood frame construction, clad in board and batten siding. Each has a low-pitched, gable roof.

Alterations/Additions

The second story of Building No. 5239 was clad in vinyl siding circa 1985.

Function

Building No. 5239 provided housing facilities for Lower and Upper Grade NCO, and Company Grade officers and their families.

Significance

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among the more identifiable of which would be

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multiple family housing units such as the Capehart Four-Family Home. Building No. 5239 provided comfortable housing for a targeted segment of the military population and their families and within

Drawings

As-built drawings for Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5239, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace....is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991*. Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

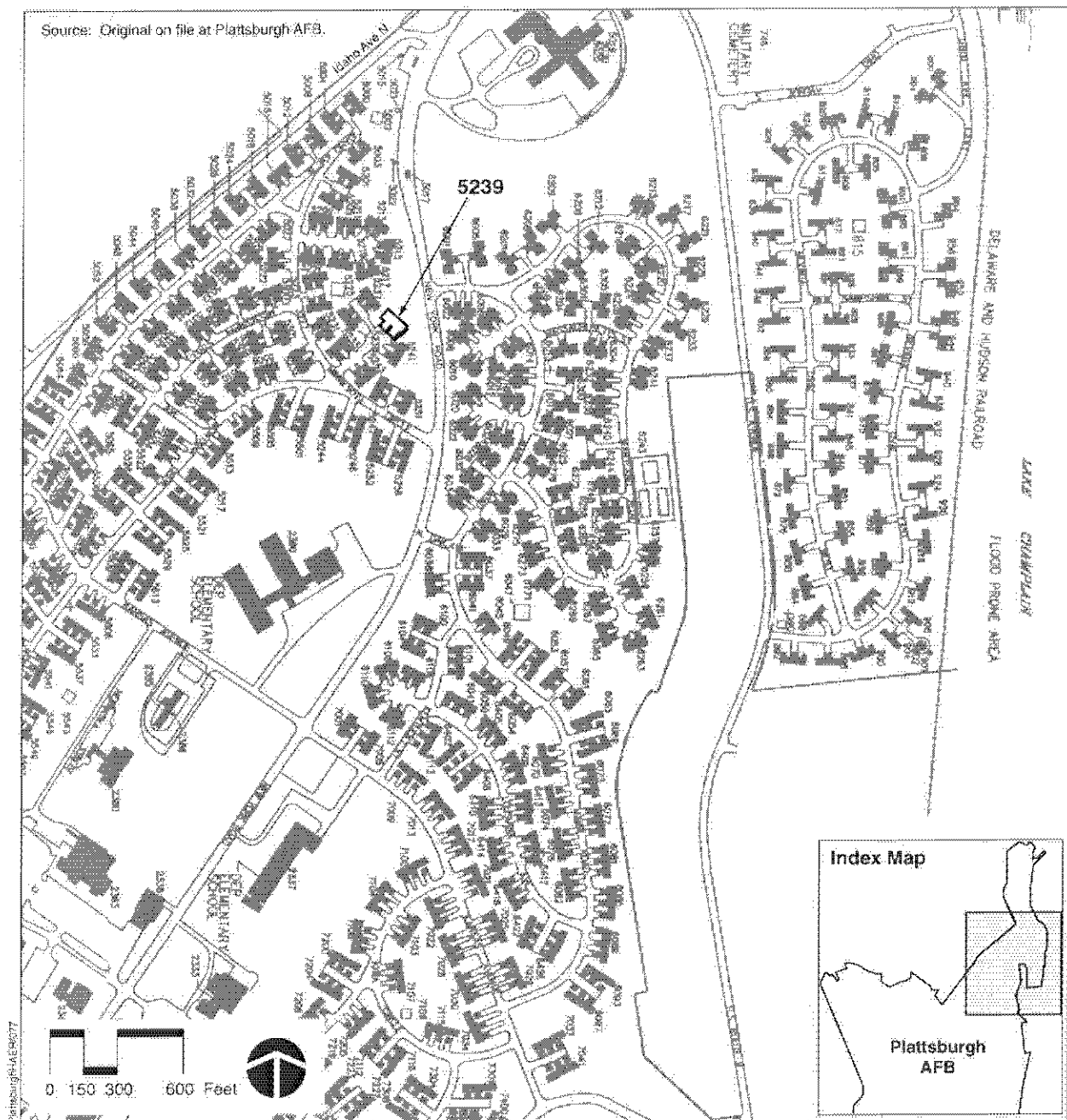
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York*, Volumes I and II, June.

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Location Map for Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5239
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